SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. Please replace the paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] In contrast to FIG. 3, in the case of the fuel injection valve shown in FIG. 4 the gap 28 is incorporated in the nozzle body 8, said gap 28 being implemented as an elongated recess in the nozzle body 8. **As depicted in FIG. 4, nozzle needle tip 10 may be provided directly adjacent the frusto-conical body section 24 of the nozzle needle, and each of the nozzle needle tip 10 and frusto-conical body section 24 may have essentially the same included angle.** The fuel flows in the direction of the arrow P into the upper end of the circumferential recess and is forced into the gap 28 between the outer surface of the frusto-conical body section 24 of the nozzle needle and the opposite section of the inner surface 26 of the nozzle body 8 when the valve closes, the axial movement of the nozzle needle 2 being damped and the nozzle needle 2 being simultaneously hydraulically guided and precisely centered by the fuel pressure in the circumferential gap 28.